

Informant: LMP-S1
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Spanish
Mini DV

CH: He looks like 'cipitillo', the duende

J: why is the hummingbird up there?

CH: It's for luck, but I don't know why he put it up there but I know that hummingbirds are for luck

J: huh

CH: So maybe that's why he put them there in that way, because it's beak is just...that saying of, if you love somebody let them go and if they are like a butterfly, and they are meant to be, they come back to you, if not they just go, I don't know how it goes but that's what that lady, that other lady told me were hummingbirds were about, that if you are able to catch one, because they are so free and so gentle and always sucking the honey from the flowers, all they do is take the honey from the flowers, so they are the epitome of sweetness and love stuff, that's why catching one is all love stuff

J: OK

CH: ...and help you guide you, so that you can enter

S1: huh?

CH: Like they helped me for example, when I came in, they told me how to apply and when, what type of things, where I had to go...

S1: I'm going to show you about this figure

CH: ???

S1: I've had it for sometime but...

CH: You put more on...

S1: Yes

CH: You did it?

S1: Yes, I like it it's my little skull

CH: We...

S1: Ask a question about the court, that I get a lot of here...(whispering) 'inaudible'

CH: ...inaudible...

S1: Alright, well I'd like you to help me with, they don't want to give to my son

CH: How old is he?

S1: 18 and he wants to ask for scholarship because I don't have much money, I want him to go to university, but he is a very good student but they already told him no, they disheartened him

CH: Don't let that happen to him, have him talk to us and we can see what we can do for him

S1: OK...that's to do works

CH: And those red ones?

S1: Well that's for like, when someone comes in right now very sick and let's say they've done him harm with one of these dolls and so I hit this doll on the person's head and I pass the eggs like this in a cross, eggs from a Creole chicken....

CH: on the person?

S1: Yes, and on passing this on them, you break them in a glass and the name of the person comes out or the photo of the person comes out

CH: The person who has harmed you?

S1: Yes, but they are Creole eggs, look at this one, if you can see it it's blue, it's from black chickens

CH: You have them?

S1: Yes, I have some at home, they are these small little chickens, there are some at home

CH: These are chicken eggs, Creole chicken eggs

S1: They are to take out harm of people

CH: They are for extracting evils from a person

S1: These are very effective they are the 'love chickens' (gallinas de amor), as they are called because they are of men and women...

CH: Like 'godornizas' (little tiny fowl)?

S1: No, chickens! They call them 'love chickens' because they have husbands...OK this is to remove harm or to take out anything like if you are sad or...so I pass this egg over you and you get better...a black chicken

CH: These are from like a dark chicken and it kind of has a blue tint to it

S1: We have these chickens at home

CH: And he has them at home...He wanted to talk to us about this doll

J: OK

CH: What type of work do you do with this doll, Who is this?

S1: I use this doll like a voodoo doll, if I put your name on this doll and I take some needles and prick it then you feel the pain and here is the little woman, that I use...they are rag dolls but I use them...if I want to put the name of someone I put it on them

CH: And you can change the name anytime?

S1: Yes, and I can prick them in the name of that person...I don't know what you're going to ask now

CH: When you were explaining to me about doing the limpia with a person, you hit the person, you hit them in the head?

S1: yes, I hit them like this on the head, and then I pass this doll like this and like in a cross and this doll brings out the bad

CH:???

S1: yes, I pass the egg in the form of a cross and out comes....

CH: The problem?

S1: Yes

CH: We wanted to ask about that figurine right there, who is he?

S1: 'El Queco' but...they say he is from Peru, but I don't him, I just like the face that he has, they say it is so that he give you money, because here he has some money, people have put some money on him

CH: They put some ???, what are these necklaces?

S1: Oh, I put that on him, they're my necklaces, this is his, but not this...

CH: What are they used for?

S1: They are protection, everything you see here, starting here are all protection so that nothing befall me...all that you see here are things I've used for works

CH: The masks and everything?

S1: Yes, it's to scare away bad spirits and like this, it's to call spirits, you call them here (proceeds to blow into it; note: sounds like a dying elephant)...they don't want to come down, they usually don't come down when there is a bad thing, no because this...(continues to blow)...no, this is to bring down good spirits, this is to scare away bad spirits...??? Of a cow, like a raging bull that's what this is for, it's not to do harm but only used to call good spirit

CH: And bad ones?

S1: To scare them

CH: It's for calling spirits and for sending them away, he says he has worked with all the things in this room at some point in time, the masks for example he says he has worked with them to scare away spirits

S1: This are animal bones, bones from a coyote, not the masks but these are...these are for...they are seven elephants but drawn on bone, they are coyote bones, this is a "Jade" it's a doll that works with me, but this is to bring down spirits and this to do harm

CH: The doll you have has a name?

S1: Yes, Juan, it's a spirit...Juan Nojo

CH: Was he a person...

S1: He is an enchantment, Juan Nojo

CH: And he works with you?

S1: Yes

CH: And how does he guide you?

S1: He changes colors when you pour water on him he turns green

CH: But how does he guide you?

S1: I call him, I pray to him and he comes down

CH: And the ??? there?

S1: This one we got here but ???

CH: Oh, I thought the beak was inside

S1: No, it's worn out, the you see the head is gone

CH: you got it?

S1: We got it here, it's for love...look at it's hands they are old, we had a rattle snake too, this is used for love, you make it into a powder and you put on the person for love, but this one was small and it came to drink water and I grabbed it

CH: And when you grab it's good luck for love right?

S1: Yes, all that is here I use for protection and I use it for good things

CH: And you said the masks where to ward away bad spirits?

S1: Yes,

CH: So a Peruvian person gave you that doll?

S1: No, that one I bought but it's Peruvian

CH: That little guy, "Queco" he's not who we thought he was, he's not a duende, he's from Peru he's from Peru...Do you want to...

S1: What does he want to ask now?

CH: We wanted to ask you about when you started to work in the spiritual and with San Simon and the people you had around you...like your uncle and your aunt that you mentioned last time, did they have to put you through an initiation processes

S1: No, nothing because if someone knows or is close to knowing is because they are chosen it cant be just anyone, there are many people but they learned from books, books from Karen Lara, books from Mexico, Cuba, but the books they make from people like me, like Karen Lara has come to do her books to get recipes, she wants to leave 20 to 25 dollars for one but I don't give her recipes the only people I do that for is you guys, she has propagated herself very big by way of other people because she does not know, have you seen this curandera that is kind of "un-hooked", she is kind of...you know...she is not a curandera, she is just a maker of books an inventor, she is becoming famous because of ...if you are a witch she gets those recipes and she makes a book and since you don't have the money to make a book she will do them and become famous, that's how she is,

CH: so you have not had any initiation?

S1: No, I started at the age of 7 to visit San Simon and visit him a lot, because I did not have a mother since I was 2, at about 5 years old I would already do work in my house and I had no mother just a father and a sister and a brother but he died in the Earthquake '76 in Guatemala, my Sister stayed about 5 years at that time, and I began to work, I don't even know how to read, I can a little bit looking at billboards but I cant read, no one ever taught me and no one ever explained it to me, everything I do, I do from my mind

S1: My sister stayed for five years. Only I stayed taking care of my house and I began to work. I don't even know how to read. Nobody has trained me. What I do comes from my mind.

CH: I wanted to ask you about how you said you haven't showed your children anything spiritual?

S1: No, because they don't want to know and another thing is that you have to be born with it. Being a witch/wizard is not a toy. The day I die I don't know what God will say because I can do bad things and good things. I don't want to... My son Byron knows many things and I'm sure he can take my place when I die but I don't want him to. It's a lot of responsibility and it's very serious. And if you don't do things the right way, it can bring a lot of problems.

CH: And other people, who have potential spirituality, have you guided them or have they asked for your help?

S1: Just a woman because I don't want to get into it. These are things that are very serious and not to be played with so I don't get into it. A dark (black lady) woman that came from Belize and she would bring down San Simon and Santa Bar and the Archangel. I helped her to succeed and now she cures. She came here with me.

CH: For how long?

S1: A month.

CH: Could you explain a bit how you helped her?

S1: The help I gave her was lighting seven candles of San Simon, seven of the Holy Spirit and cleaning her with white flowers so the spirits could come down. Asking for the protectors to help her and so that it would develop.

CH: And the cleaning process with the white flowers how would you...?

S1: The cleansing consists of passing the flowers over the person and each flower that flies away signifies a good spirit. She began to go in a trance and started saying many things, she declared who she was. She gets this thing like, shaking. She is very secure because she isn't a young girl; she's an older woman. The older women are very secure because they don't lie.

CH: And that's why you were up for it?

S1: Yes. They are women that respect.

CH: Only in special cases would you...

S1: Almost not, A lot of people ask if I can show them. I can't show them. I don't read cards, what I read is the person but here if you don't read the cards people here are not sure about it all.

CH: And when you bring San Simon down into your body...?

S1: No, I don't bring him. I pray to him, I smoke cigars for him, I ask for help, but I don't bring him down. Why would I tell you lies if I can't because I can't lie to San Simon. There are people who bring San Simon in their body and do things that aren't right.

CH: You don't then. OK. Have you brought down any other spirit?

S1: San Simon about three years ago at a party. But I don't know.

CH: You don't remember anything?

S1: No.

CH: What did they say?

S1: They say I said a lot to the people in the party, they say they gave me a gallon of liquor and I drank it all

CH: Because San Simon likes to drink

S1: Yes and smoked I don't know how many cigars. But I don't know. It has only happened one time. When San Simon comes down, the people don't get drunk and the person has to have a good heart condition because San Simon drinks alcohol and smokes cigars when he comes down, when it's for real

CH: So you didn't have any control over...?

S1: No, I don't do any of that because there are people who trick. I don't because I have a lot of respect for San Simon, god and my work.

CH: Could you talk about the help that your guides give you, the ones we spoke of last time?

S1: San Simon is the one who tells me everything. I only work with him, I have all the saints and I respect them but the one I pray to is a little dwarf, sometimes to San Judas Tadeo.

CH: Do you know the story of San Simon because they say that he and Saint Jude are the same?

S1: They say they are the same because on the day of San Jude, San Simon appeared. And they say they are brothers but I don't know that...Saint Jude, you know the one with the coin here, he was born that day.

CH: Have you ever seen anyone who has had a bad spirit enter his or her body?

S1: Yes.

CH: Have you assisted with removing that spirit?

S1: Yes, here. But about three months ago, a woman came and asked me to give her a consultation. And when I did she started shaking and began to faint. She was grinding her teeth and began to curse at me.

CH: And what did you do?

S1: I began to cure her and the woman began saying things and wanted to run out. These are satanic things. Some people cursed her so she could go crazy. And she began to cry and to say bad things.

CH: And how do you take out the badness?

S1: By using shrubbery, eggs, fluoridated water, and by throwing cold water in the face.

CH: Do you have to do this cure more than once?

S1: Yes, many times. I didn't cure her completely because she came by herself and a family member has to come with the person because she can die. Yes, I only cured her once. Sometimes I don't have time and these things take a long time. That day I helped her because the people begged me to help her.

CH: But she hasn't returned?

S1: Yes, she has but the truth is I don't want to cure her because it can get very violent. I can do it. I'm not afraid of her but I don't know how the family would react.

CH: The family would have to come?

S1: Yes. And you see the family is not interested what is happening.

CH: So I've been just asking him about San Simon...

J: Ask him about the masks he mentions, he says he's worn all of them, doing what?

CH: You said you had the masks here for protection, but have you worn them, have you used them all?

S1: No, I don't wear them, I just use them to protect myself so the bad things will go away.

CH: He hasn't worn them he just keeps them on the wall to ward off bad things

S1: These are certain beliefs that we have.

CH: So I've been asking him about Saint Simon and like exorcism and whether he goes into trance. Did you want me to ask him about stories of San Simon?

J: In a moment, right now ask him about the "limpias" with duck eggs and rue (ruda).

CH: Could you tell me a little more about limpias, for example the limpias you do with the the duck eggs (huevos de pato) and the 'rue' (ruda)?

S1: Yes, that's to take away some evil and for people who are impotent, you know sometimes women will do things and with that you get cured. I use a dozen of duck eggs and Creole chicken eggs. Then I need a clay pot, "cascarilla," alcohol, and fluoridated water.

CH: And everything gets mixed?

S1: Yes, but the person dresses in their underwear clothes they can take off because those clothes they will have to throw away. First I blow smoke on them and then I pray. Then you pass two white pigeons. And when everything is done with, I cover the person with "cascarilla" which is eggshell powder all over the body and you break the pot. Just like it being broken so to will this bad stuff

CH: Oh yeah, since it's clay, you have to break it on the ground?

S1: yes, with rage

CH: That way the person will have potency?

S1: Yes, so all the evil will go away. I also do cleanses with water and ice to make the bad influences go away. I also use a black chicken.

CH: How do you make cleanses with water and ice?

S1: Sometimes there are necessities like when a person has a lot of problems. Water with ice and seven machos (siete machos).

CH: And do they have to sit in the water?

S1: No, you sit down and I throw the water on you.

CH: And what do the seven machos do?

S1: It's water that is mixed with the ice.

CH: And so that takes away the evil from people?

S1: It's like for people who are told they are lazy who don't want to work. It goes away with that. If I cleanse a person, he says that he feels better.

CH: And when you clean a person with the black chicken...

S1: The black chicken is to take away black magic that has been performed on a person.

CH: Alive or dead?

S1: Alive, I don't do anything with dead things, and there are instances where I do things where you cut the chicken's head off but I don't do it much because it's prohibited.

CH: But how do you use the chicken to clean the person?

S1: I make a cross with it on the entire body while hitting the person.

CH: With the chicken?

S1: Yes, and I put the head of the pigeon in the mouth of the person and after, I let the pigeons fly away.

CH: That's for the limpia you told me at the beginning?

S1: Yes,

CH: So, he just told me about the four different limpieas, one with a black chicken to ward off all the bad...

S1: It has to be a Creole chicken and original

CH: To get out the black works?

S1: Yes

CH: It has to be a Creole chicken and original...but they have to be black right?

S1: Yes

CH: And he passes them in the form of a cross over the person and around the person and when he does the limpieas with the doves...the first limpia that he told me about, the person has to have the doves face in the mouth and then let them go, let them fly, but that's for the limpieas, for protection, the one with the doves is for protection and potency perhaps, regain sexual potency...

J: When the clients are ill do they tell him what they think is wrong with them or do they really on him to diagnose them?

CH: When clients come to you, and are ill, do they tell you what's wrong with them?

S1: No, they don't tell me anything. I'll tell them.

CH: He diagnosis himself, they don't tell him anything

S1: Or else it wouldn't be a consultation. If they would come and tell me then it wouldn't be useful.

CH: What's the difference between consultation and a talk?

S1: A talk would just be like how we are talking right now. When they just come and tell me what is happening in their lives. Things like that. But if it's a consultation I tell them to not tell me and I'll see them here. A talk is like if you have a small problem and you come talk to me

CH: So...

S1: For orientation

CH: So the difference between talks and consultation is that when it's a talk they just discuss issues for some advice and when it's a consultation, they come to the office, and he divines.

J: What are you doing this Easter?

CH: What are you doing for Easter?

S1: I don't do anything for Easter, because I can't do anything here. In my country I could do something because we celebrate a day called 'Saturday of Glory.' In the Catholic Church there's a mass of glory that Jesus lived and there's a procession. But we respect it since Monday, which is the day after tomorrow. We celebrate Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Friday is a very holy day. That day people don't even shower. In Guatemala, people eat bread with honey and they 'ayote', eat fish, 'pacayas' wrapped with egg. But here we don't have any customs. And I had a law where I would bring out "El Mashimon" and I would do it here too but there are many problems I cant do it on my own.

CH: "El Mashimon" is the same as Saint Simon right?

S1: It's similar but not quite.

CH: What are the differences?

S1: They just say that you ask him for things also, they say he is San Simon, but I don't know. You can put any mask of these on him and you can dance with him, I used to dance with him, from 7am to 9pm I would burn him...

CH: You would burn him?

S1: Yes,

CH: In the day?

S1: At night, for 'Saturday of glory' but I had an idea that I would take him out to dance, on the street and then everyone would dance, and you give him lots of liquor

CH: And then you burn him?

S1: Yes, because around 4 pm he gives a message, they say he does, the people have the story, that he leaves you shoes, he gives you a sweater, a plot of land and over there some women

CH: And those things are true?

S1: Yes, they happened. It seems like he's the one who hung himself when he sold Jesus Christ. He's hung, there are plazas in Guatemala where he is hanging from his neck. He looks like him.

CH: He told me a story about 'Mashimon' another guy that is similar to San Simon, but some people say that he is not San Simon that he is just similar.

J: This one is 'Maximon'?

CH: No, looks like him but it's not him and for Easter on Saturday of Glory...(inaudible)...he said on that day, in the evening he would bring him out and dance with him and then pass him on to the next person and have them dance with him and then you would dance with him and then what they would do is put a mask on him and in many places you'll see...

S1: They make him out of trash, clothes, or banana leaves.

CH: I've seen that in El Salvador

S1: I used to do it here, but not anymore, they put him in the corners or hanging...

CH: They make him out of hay, out of trash, all kind of stuff and then they hang him and at the end of the night they burn him

S1: In Guatemala there's a custom where if you can't have children you take him nine cents and he gives you a child.

CH: And if you cant have kids, there is a custom that you take him nine cents and he'll give you a child

S1: Where he goes that day not everyone likes him, especially not the evangelicals, but if you believe and have the curiosity to see him you take him to your home and you have to give people horchata, food, or alcohol.

CH: To be able to have him?

S1: You have to play the marimba and burn fireworks

CH: And if your curious about him....

S1: You have to ask some time in advance so they can take him to you

CH: and you want to see him or have him as your guest in your house, you have to call in do time so that they can take him there and you have to serve him and everyone around horchata, liquor and food sometimes, just so that you can have him.

J: This is only in Guatemala?

S1: In Guatemala and in many other places, in Guatemala and El Salvador is almost the same, Mexico is very famous for that.

CH: He says he used to do something with “mashimon,”

S1: They call him “Mashimon” (note: phonetic) not San Simon

CH: With that “Mashimon” would you do something with him here?

S1: Yes, I would put him in the door and would dance with him, those are customs that one keeps.

CH: And why don't you do that here?

S1: Because there are problems with the police. I would celebrate the day of the cross, in Guatemala, and the day of the child and January 1st.

CH: When is the day of the child?

S1: On Christmas I would go to the custom dances a month before and masks.

CH: different masks, customs...?

S1: 40, everyday...every Saturday or Sunday

CH: One month before the birth of the child?

S1: And when they began to come out was when the festivities where coming

CH: And everyone would do this or just you, your tradition?

S1: It's rare to find someone with those ideas. There are people who like to go watch, there are people who like to wear the clothes, and there are people who are afraid.

CH: And so you can't do that here?

S1: You can do that here but we need people to collaborate. People in Guatemala would always help out but not here, they help you carry the marimba. Here the people are different, different ideas, I don't think they even believe in God. Here they believe in work and in dollars.

CH: And do you miss that, not being able to that?

S1: Yes, but one cannot live in their country.

CH: Yes, it's more difficult.

S1: Yes, because they were customs that I had. Like January 15th we went to Esquipulas and when we got back there were festivities.

CH: Esquipulas is where there's another San Simon right?

S1: No, Esquipulas is where that black saint is over there. That's him...

CH: The Christ of Esquipulas?

S1: Yes...this one, that one too in that picture. He is the Lord Esquipulas of Guatemala in the border with Honduras. He's very miraculous too.

CH: Would you talk to me about the miracles that Saint Simon has made for you or for the clients? Anything specific like a story or something miracle that they have told you.

S1: I have many. First, to get here to the US, is something not everyone can do. I came by praying to God and to San Simon. I came from Guatemala on January 17th and I got here on February 25th. But before everything I prayed to San Simon and to his Lord of Esquipulas at his temple. And I arrived.

CH: And how did you get here?

S1: As a wetback and with a "coyote." But the "coyotes" come and they rob you. They just leave you abandoned. They only make you walk in lines and then leave you. I go many times to Guatemala and I just go alone.

CH: You get there walking?

S1: Yeah I leave walking and go back walking. And sometimes I just get here by plane.

CH: so, what would you say...For example, there are people who say that this happened and that they had a dream about San Simon. Could you give an example?

S1: Oh yeah it's very good that they dream about San Simon in light blue, with clothing of that color it means prosperity and that San Simon and that San Simon will help in many things. There are people who dream of him walking or talking with them, that means that he will bless them or San Simon is telling you something, if you have a bad husband, San Simon will tell you that you have a bad husband. There are people that San Simon tells them to do such and such thing, and when San Simon is bad with something, he will tell the person and that person comes and tells me and I have to do it.

CH: You have to do what he needs.

S1: For example, San Simon doesn't like that I have a black tablecloth and I had a black one do you remember?

CH: Did it have many colors?

S1: No, it had like a black triangle. He told me to take away this tablecloth because he said this wasn't a dark place and that he didn't want it here. And that people weren't going to come. I took it away and now I have white tablecloths for some time. He says no and it's no.

CH: And is he happy right now?

S1: He was a bit upset with me because he was a bit hurt from one of his hands and I had not cured him

CH: How would you cure him?

S1: His hand, like it was dislocated somewhere, he's happy now because they fixed him. He gets happy...when he is happy everything is good, because if he is not it's like you are with a broken hand, foot, because he works here, comes out to work, he walks around here. Many people see shadows of him and they are afraid. I tell them to not be afraid because San Simon is the one who walks.

CH: Would you also talk about the elf (duende)?

S1: I know the elf (duende) but not very well, I know that he tricks people, when he says he wants no one to look at him he leaves his shoes outside and he goes in, he leaves his shoes like this as if he went out and...when he enters he leaves them facing out and when he goes out he goes facing in, to trick people. Not many people see him. He makes a whistle like this...that means he's near and he plays a guitar.

CH: They used to tell me, my friend from Guatemala and she told me that you cant get the knots out because if you do you will die, is that true?...

S1: And the woman that he likes he makes their hair like this...he twists it all up and he knots it,

CH: When he likes a woman?

S1: Yes

CH: My friend from Guatemala told me that you cant get the knots out because if you do you will die, is that true?

S1: He will do it like this...in Guatemala there is a woman but she died

CH: And what happens because my friend is from Guatemala and she says that when the elf does that to people that they can't undo the knots in the hair because they'll die. Is this true?

S1: They can take it off but they will have to go bald. In Guatemala there was a woman that died but I don't know if the elf killed (took) her. But he went to drop of a hammer and a small pick made of gold.

CH: he left her that?

S1: Yes. And she died and it was left to her children...He would bother her alot. If you like the elf (duende) he will bother you alot. He will throw your food, throw dirt on you, he'll scare you, if you're with them he'll break your camera.

CH: And does he bother men or women the most?

S1: Women. He isn't evil (bad). My son...we have an elf in our house. I'll show it to you one day, he's really small it has blue eyes very cute, American looking and chubby. I have him in my house with many gold necklaces, and to my son he does like this...he takes the sheets off of him or he appears, my son turns and he stares at him like this.

CH: And then he's gone?

S1: Yes, and sometimes my son says that the elf goes like this scaring him.

CH: Has he done anything to you?

S1: No, they know that I love them, Thank God not one saint or anything bothers me. People say that San Simon does evil and that the elves do evil. It's not true. They say the images fight, that's a lie, they don't fight, I have them all, I love them all.

CH: And what does the elf like, what does one give him?

S1: They say alcohol and I don't know much about the food...but he is around the mountains and cliffs

CH: And do you know any story that corresponds with the elf or how he got to Guatemala?

S1: No, in the world he is just a thing of god...I don't know he's an enchantment, he's an enchantment of Hermano Diego and Juanita...all that they say, Diego is the elf, the brother elf, the little chubby one that is outside, he's very cute but he's chubby, he looks real small like a midget, he does no harm, not San Simon and no saint

CH: I was just asking him about the (duende) and how he can...he says he tricks people he's like a trickster and he has one at his house that pulls the covers off his son, like tricking him or sometimes his son is sitting here and he'll turn and he'll see him and then he wont be there anymore, just like a trick, he tricks women a lot, if he likes a woman he'll knot her hair up and the only way to remove it is to shaving that part off because he does it so tightly

S1: He does not harm

CH: He does not harm, he's a trickster but he doesn't do any serious harm to people

PJ: His son, how old is his son?

S1: He's eighteen.

CH: Byron?

S1: No, Milca. Byron is seventeen. His name is Edwin.

J: Which one wants into UCLA?

CH: Byron.

S1: No, Milcar (Edwin) wants to go to UCLA.

J: And what is he interested in, what does he want to study?

CH: What does he want to study, what interests him?

S1: Oh, he wants to be a police officer or a doctor.

CH: He wants to be a police officer or a doctor

S1: He is a very intelligent man, very good man. He does well in school. If he was born here he would be big, but I brought him when he was about ten. He never lost a year in school. He doesn't bother anyone. He isn't involved in gangs or anything. He's very tranquil. His teachers love him. They send me letters and they say that he is good his teachers say that he tells them about this

CH: About what?

S1: About Indians and about witchcraft. He tells me that he has a teacher that knows about witchcraft and he jokes around by saying that if only they knew that I (their father) was a one...but they tell him many things

CH: He has a teacher or something that knows about witchcraft and those kinds of things and tells him about it and he says that if they only knew that his father was a witch himself

J: What about Byron, what are his interests?

CH: And Byron what are his interests?

S1: My son Byron doesn't want to...because some street guy gave him some bad ideas, because he does not want to be in school, I did something so that he go to school but I just sent him with his mother because he was going to become a vagrant...he's with his mother

CH: the mother is Guatemala

S1: Washington but she doesn't want to put him in school, he's just working.

CH: he said he had some trouble with Byron because he had bad influence because of some friends he was hanging with him

S1: He was a very good boy but those bad kids would tell him to not go to school. And before he worsened, I sent him with his mother.

CH: He doesn't want to go to school so she's got him working

J: Where is the mother?

CH: Washington, Seattle

S1: He is cutting seeds for...how do you call it, it's this thing that goes to Italy for flowers, they are Palms.

CH: Is it like gardening?

S1: No, he's up in the mountains. They go cut some plants that are similar to palm trees and they sell them to France and Italy.

CH: He's doing some type of work like in the mountains where they cut these palms and they export them to Italy...

S1: they say it's used to make perfumes.

CH: to make perfumes...

J: Well, have his older son talk to us some time about what major he wants to apply for and we'll be glad to help him with his statement of purpose and get it all together for submission.

CH: he says you should encourage your son so that we can give him advice on how to apply go over his application

S1: He wants to get into the university. He's been investigating and says that illegals cant be admitted. We are illegal here but we have a permit. But...

CH: They don't accept the permit that you have?

S1: It seems like he has to be a resident and we are not residents.

CH: We would have to look at that because I think that if he enters as an international student.

S1: I'll tell him, hopefully it works out because I really want him to go to a university.

CH: He says the reason why he's been having some trouble is he's been investigating and they said that he doesn't qualify because of his legal status. He has a permit to be here but you have to be a resident or something like that. But I told him about how he could be an international student.

J: Yeah, I'll have to look into that. I'll have to talk to him and talk to counselors at UCLA.

CH: We would have to talk to your son to see exactly what's going on and to speak to consuls at the University, but have him come

S1: I'll tell him to call you, you will be able to come in eight days?

CH: Or next Sunday if we come...he says he'll tell him to come and meet with us sometime

J: "Why years to me" (note: practicing his Spanish)

CH: Last time you asked how old Professor Jones was and he wants to know why his age interest you?

S1: Because he still works and he looks older. And another thing is that I see that he has a normal mind and there are people at that age that don't work.

CH: So you were only curious?

S1: Yes.

CH: He says because you are very able to...because you look like an adult but you are able and you still work and you are still thinking and not a lot of people can do that at your age, so he was just curious.

S1: There are men who are forty or fifty years old men and they don't want to work. He seems like he's in his sixties.

CH: He says there are some people that are in their forties and they don't want to work and he's like maybe in his sixties and he is still going...

S1: There are people who are old and they are happy because they work. If he stops working, he's going to get ill because that's how it is. If I don't work I get sick. You have to be used to it, there are some that are not...

CH: He says some people are really good about working like...if you stop working you'll get sick, same with him if he stops working he'll get sick

S1: I had grandfather who was eighty-nine years old and if he didn't bring wood from the mountain, he wouldn't be happy. And my grandmother said that she would die working and she did.

CH: He said that his grandfather, if he was not coming down the mountain with some wood or something he felt like he had not done any work, he said he would feel like he would die, he valued work.

S1: I feel like I still have twenty years to work. I don't want to get sick. I want to work. I want my sons to be students.

CH: Yeah, we'll see how we can help your son but have him come.

J: Let me change tape.

Side B

CH: What are the plants are you growing in your home for medicine?

S1: What I have right now more than anything is rue (ruda). Everything I have in my house is used for remedies. I have rue (ruda), bombilia flowers that you drink with milk for a cough. There's rue (ruda), sweet basil (albahaca), aloe (savila), and (campana).

CH: What plants do you think that every person that works with plants, every Latino(a) should have?

S1: Rue (ruda), sweet basil (albahaca), rosemary (romero), spearmint (yerba Buena) there are two kinds the small one mint (menta) and the other one, jinjibre (ginger), (campana), (apasote), malba (mallow), this is used when a person has inflammations, they bathe in it. Avocados (aguacate) are also used to bathe, lemons (limon) are also used and so are oranges (naranja).

CH: You should not go without?

S1: Yes, for those that know about shrubbery but if you don't then I don't know.

CH: I've noticed that Latinos...one always know that you're in a Hispanic neighborhood because of the plants they own. I see rue (ruda), sweet basil (albahaca), sage (salvia).

S1: Yes, because the Americans don't know it's medicine. There should be 'shave grass' (cola de caballo) that I have seen in their homes but they don't know it's medicine. There is also lemon tea (te de limon) and it is used to cure a cough and for other sicknesses. (Apasote) is used to take away drunkenness. Or it is used to catch intestinal worms in childrens.

CH: Do children eat it?

S1: Yeah they eat it with their egg or in a pomade or you put it in the ears or under their arms.

CH: This is used to rid them of the worms?

S1: No, this is used to catch them, to rid them I use apasote. They eat apasote and the worms leave the body.

CH: And when the worms leave their body what happens?

S1: They don't bother anymore. Here the kids might have them but they don't know about anything like that, here they don't know about that, children here have amoebas, and ringworm (lombrizes). There are some children that do not gain weight. There is an herb called (incensio) that is good for stomach ache, verbain (verbena)...

CH: So I just asked him about the staple herbs that you need to have that should never be missed and he said it was like rosemary, aloe, rue, he made a list

S1: there is an herb called (Santa Maria) that they also call (alta misa). There's white and purple sweet basil (albahaca blanca y morada). It's like the bellflower (flor de campana). I don't drink anything to go to sleep and I put three of those under my pillow and fall asleep?

CH: You put it under the pillow?

S1: Yes. I don't even feel it, it's already eight and I don't even notice it.

CH: Prepared?

S1: No, I just put it like this, I don't take pills because they make me sick and when I wake...I can't wake up...but I don't take it, I just put it right there at the head of the bed.

J: The Holy Death (La Santisima Muerte), what's important about it and what's the nature of it...how does it figure in to the diagnosis therapy, ritual?

S1: What does he say?

CH: Who is the Holy Dead?

S1: It's the one that takes us all, because it's the one that God has named her for us to die. If there is no Holy Dead, then no one dies. She kills people and cures people. She is very good, she's made many miracles, in Mexico they say they have her in a church. In Guatemala there is a church of the Holy Dead.

J: There's a church?

CH: Yes.

S1: I have her wear a dress because I don't like people to look at her bones, but there are places where they have her just with the bones

CH: What does she have to do with all this botanical stuff?

S1: They use her as a witch.

CH: she guides people?

S1: There are many people who say to give them protection of the Holy Dead. I don't know how she works. It depends what saint you work with, but there are people that use here to work with...If you want a person to go with you, you tie a picture of the Holy Dead and the person's underwear, then you bring the person and you pray a novena so that no one will help out the person until the person falls for you.

CH: And what are the things that are offered to the Holy Dead, flowers, candles...?

S1: Only candles.

CH: You don't give food to the Holy Dead?

S1: I don't, and I don't know if others do.

CH: I have heard that the Holy Dead helps more with love problems. Is that true?

S1: Yes, it's true. I don't know but in Queretaro, they have told me, there is an old woman, it's like a joke, and they say that she has a plant of purple avocados and the branches would fall on the street. The people would pass by her house and steal the avocados. The woman was mean and she didn't want anyone to take the avocados. So then one day, she was an old woman, one of those that can't even walk anymore, she climbed up on the tree and she heard that the avocados would fall, but she was eating up there. So then she thought it was a scoundrel that was stealing the avocados, so she put fire, she put gas around and the holy dead said let me come down because I won't take you, let's make a deal, don't burn me and I won't take you...because the Holy Death was tired of eating flesh so it stopped to eat an avocado, but the old lady was stubborn, she said she must pay for the avocado, but death said all I can do is that I won't take you, I'll take everyone else but you, so then the Holy Dead convinced her and she came down and the old lady told her to take the other avocados and the Holy Death left and then the people began to die in the village, then three days later, the old lady slipped and hit her forehead and died. Holy dead came for her, The Holy Dead can be good. It appears in the mirror at two in the morning but it is called "Rey San Pascual"

CH: The real name is King San Pascual

S1: In Guatemala there is a temple, I don't know if it's still there because sister Maria Luisa Sosa is dead, when she began working there was a little girl of about 7 or 8 years old and she would read a book on her back and this here would jump and shake and the whole church would tremble. King Pascual's crown would shake, she would begin to say everything, everything and she would not say it hidden like she would say it in a microphone

CH: The lady?

S1: Yes, She was a very decent and humble woman. She would go to church wearing a long white dress. She would tell you when you were born and when you would die, what happened what, what did not happen and if you cheat on your husband.

CH: And she would work with King San Pascual?

S1: yes, and a god child (niño dios), There was no one like that lady.

CH: And this lady...

S1: She died

CH: But...

S1: I summon her. Her name is Maria Luisa Sosa. She had her temple in Rio San Juan samayac zuchitepecs, the old road of samayac, she had it at the edge of the river.

CH: And when she guides you...

S1: Things come out better.

CH: What would you summon her for?

S1: To cure. She would cure in the day on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and on Holy week (Semana Santa-Easter week). I have much respect for her. She would not charge because one cannot charge over there. But she would make a lot of money because about two hundred people would see her everyday and leave her some money. She had a small plantation and on it there was an eatery, it was a famous place that was a hotel. There was a temple called Rio San Juan. Now it is abandoned. None of the sons went, no one. Only The daughters-in-law were the only ones that went but they really aren't, they want to. I know them. If someone were sick, she would know and would tell you what to bring. But she would summon many spirits and would not fool anyone. She was a woman and there was man that would talk out of her. She would concentrate since 8:30 in the morning until 6:30 in the afternoon.

CH: The spirit she would summon...

S1: Yes, she sits down and she would talk all day and give recipes all day long. You pass by, then another and another, by number. She sometimes does something where she doesn't move or opens her eyes. Only a white thing passes by her. She has a cup like this one with a scorpion. And she would not talk in secret because she would say everything directly in the microphone, she had them all around. She had chairs like the ones in churches. There was no one else like her.

CH: And would she receive the spirit of the Holy Death?

S1: Yes. She would summon the spirit.

CH: Was it dangerous?

S1: No, because she was for real not a faker. When someone is false, it is dangerous. They go crazy, things happen. I would go put flowers with her to San Pascual on the table. And we would clean before she got home because I liked to be in front of her. She

would begin to make the flowers glide, they would move like this. The saint's crown would move and everything would tremble. People would feel goose bumps.

CH: In that room?

S1: It's not a room, it's a church. I wanted to buy it but it costs a million dollars and I couldn't purchase it. There are many beautiful things there. I want to buy it but it is a small piece of land but it costs a lot.

CH: Maria Luisa Sosa?

S1: Yes, Rio San Juan San Mayac Zuchitepeques. She died at sixty-five. She was a very famous woman all over the world.

CH: He says she was really famous and she worked with San Pascual, so he was just talking to me about that

S1: There is a river that goes behind her house and she had two estates.

CH: And here, what's the connection with the death?

S1: I don't work with Death. I only have it because I like it.

J: He doesn't work with La Muerte (Death)?

CH: No, he has her because he likes her

S1: I sell things that belong to her....I respect all the saints but I cant work with her, there are different ways people work with her, there are people that work with Christs and they do bad things, black Christs, satanic.

J: Why does he have a black Christ?

S1: He is the Christ of Esquipulas from Guatemala.

CH: He's not a black Christ...well he is a black Christ but he's the Esquipulas from Guatemala...

S1: He's from god, not bad...

CH: He's a good one not a bad one

S1: That little saint is very miraculous.

J: How can you tell the difference between a good one and bad one?

CH: How can you tell the difference between a good one and bad one?

S1: Whichever one the person uses. It depends on how the person uses it.

CH: he says any Christ can be used for black magic, it does not have to be a black Christ, it just depends on how people want to use it?...Can you tell us about the Christ of Esquipulas?

S1: People make a very big line to go see him. It takes four days to go visit him. When you leave, you can't turn your back on him. You have to leave walking backwards. He is very miraculous. If you go just thinking about buying toys or statues then you don't see him.

CH: How does he help you the most?

S1: He helps with everything

CH: He has no specialty?

S1: sicknesses, in your job, paths...everything.

CH: Now going back to the elf (duende), does it help more in some things than others?

S1: It helps with businesses and good luck. We Latinos believe in good luck, I don't know about what other religions believe in but we believe in everything. I believe in God, San Simon, and all the other saints...and his Lord of Esquipulas

CH: Are there any other saints...like guides such as Maria Luisa Sosa?

S1: Yes, Fidelino Figueroa, Francisco Garcia, Armando Rodolfo, and Hermana Catalina. They have passed away. They lived. I knew them because they were family members.

CH: And whom would they work with? San Simon?

S1: Hermano Fidelino was a very big man and he would use a red bandana. He died at fifty-five. He was as big as him. He was half Indian and he worked with a bible and with Saint Anthony (San Antonio) and the virgin of conception (Virgen de concepcion).

CH: And only that?

S1: Just that. But he had a jar with a bible on top. When he would cure, things were seen in the jar.

CH: The bad or the good or what was wrong...?

S1: All the bad things. He would take out hair, dirt, and rats.

CH: They would come out of the water?

S1: No, they would come out flying. I saw and I lived there with him. He would pray a lot to Saint Anthony. San Antonio of Paula, he is bald.

CH: And who is that?

S1: This one here.

CH: And in what does Saint Anthony of Paula(San Antonio de Paula) help out the most?

S1: There are people who use him to help with love. They tie a picture to him. They also put him head down in water. But I don't. They say that until the man comes, you don't take the saint out of the water.

CH: Poor thing

S1: But he is from the Catholic Church.

CH: And Fidelino?

S1: He would work with Saint Anthony.

CH: And with what other one would he work with? You said the virgin?

S1: The Virgin of Concepcion,

CH: And who is she?

S1: The mother of God. Maria Concepcion.

CH: Does she take care of kids or just everyone in general?

S1: She takes care of everyone. She puts her blessing on everyone, she was a virgin that was three hundred years old, I had her dressed in wedding dress.

CH: And do people offer her things?

S1: Yes, white and yellow candles.

CH: What's the significance of that?

S1: The yellow ones are for health and the white ones are for peace in the home.

CH: And do they offer candles to Saint Anthony?

S1: Yes, red ones or brown ones.

CH: For love, right?

S1: Yes

CH: And what is the brown one for?

S1: I don't know. People just ask for it.

CH: Do they offer food?

S1: No, just water, white flowers, and the mass that the father gives.

CH: So we were just talking about some of the other guys and the people...and the saints that guided him, which is the Virgin Mary...so we were just talking about what he did...so how does he help you?

S1: I summon him, since he's dead and he was good.

CH: And how does he help you?

S1: He gives me strength and ideas.

CH: Could you talk to me about the other people who helped you?

S1: Fidelino Figueroa and Francisco Garcia. Francisco would tell me what to do and what not to do, but people would never go back, they just went the one day and he would do something and that would give them good results by the afternoon

CH: He helped you?

S1: Yes. He already died. He had a contract and he told me that he had a pact (empactado), my son told me that he (my son) was going to die, about 4 years ago that I was in Guatemala and my son told me this, because his time was up, because they make a pact for 40 or 50 years and he had gone over by one year and his chest began to burn, because he gave himself to some other thing, I don't know with what.

CH: He never told you?

S1: No, I just know that there were many rocks where he lived.

CH: Rocks?

S1: They are enchantments (encantos)...many rocks, there are no benches there, people just sit on rocks. There is a river and a ranch and it burns there, in the shrubbery. He would burn seven yellow candles, a handful of incense/resin (copal) and he would pray to Santiago Regadito and would blow at the fire and the people would be cured or there was business at his place.

CH: Who is Santiago Regadito?

S1: He's a saint

CH: I don't know him. Do you have a picture?

S1: No, I don't only in Guatemala.

CH: How does he help out?

S1: In everything. In having a good trip, with police and immigration trouble. If you pray to him, the police will not notice you. You say, "Santiago Regadito, please protect me from authority, don't let them see me. Please make me invisible to them." They don't see you.

CH: And did that man only work with Santiago Regadito?

S1: No, he had a devil, a Saint Pedro, a glass case with human bones. He didn't give consultations with any of that stuff. He would use a blower. Do you know what a blower is? It's actually one of those used to blow a flame.

CH: And what would he blow?

S1: Water. He would tell everything.

CH: Interesting, Do you know how to do that?

S1: No. I would stay many days in his church. They would scare me and I would hear footsteps.

CH: Because he was enchanted...

S1: Yes,

CH: He had made a pact

S1: He had many old things. He had naked devils and things like that.

CH: Would he use the demons to do works?

S1: I'm pretty sure he did, because I don't know how he worked, I don't use any of that.

CH: Right, and the other woman, what would she.....

S1: Maria Luisa Sosa only had a beautiful altar of Saint John from July 24th. He's a patron saint, he is the one that rides around on a little goat...the church was called San Juan, the residence was called San Juan, it was called San Juan del Rio but next to it she had her church where she worked.

CH: How does Saint John help?

S1: I don't know anything about it, just that it was called San Juan del Rio, but she worked in her church and she had the Holy Child.

CH: Who is the Holy Child?

S1: The Holy child of God.

CH: Did you know another woman who served as a guide?

S1: Yes, but I never knew her. Her name was Sister Catalina. And Brother Rodolfo worked with a mirror and you would not be in front of the mirror but in back of him. You would enter here and exit there, You would enter here and exit there, You would enter here and exit there...he would sit like this in front of the mirror and he would answer your questions with his back facing you.

CH: He did not have any spirits?

S1: He did not have saints or anything...all the candles (veladoras) from all over the place, he would not charge.

CH: And how does he help you?

S1: He helps me a lot because, he was a good person.

CH: Do you still summon him?

S1: Yes.

CH: And the other woman that you never met?

S1: Sister Catalina was also a witch, a spiritist.

CH: What would she use?

S1: I don't know.

CH: So I just asked him about all those guides he mentioned last time and what they did and what they used. Do you want to continue?

J: We've been taping for an hour and a half he may be tired by now.

CH: Do you want to stop?

S1: Sure, because the children are bothering.

CH: he says, yeah.

S1: If one day God wants me to go to Guatemala legally, I'll go and I'll invite you and them and we can see many things.

CH: Maybe next time we could ask you about court and love problems. You can give us examples.

S1: Yes.